

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION III**  
**1650 Chestnut Street**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

**SUBJECT:** Promulgation of Transportation  
Equipment Cleaning Effluent Guideline

**DATE:** 10-6-00

**FROM:** EPA Region III

**TO:** POTW Pretreatment Program Managers

On August 14, 2000, EPA published in the Federal Register (65 FR 49666) final regulations for the Transportation Equipment Cleaning category. The final regulation became effective September 13, 2000 and established technology-based effluent limitations for wastewater discharges associated with the operation and maintenance of new and existing facilities that perform transportation equipment cleaning operations. Transportation equipment cleaning (TEC) facilities are defined as those facilities that generate wastewater from cleaning the interior of tank trucks, closed-top hopper trucks, rail tank cars, closed-top hopper rail cars, intermodal tank containers, tank barges, closed-top hopper barges, and ocean/sea tankers used to transport materials or cargos that come into direct contact with the tank or container interior. Facilities which do not engage in cleaning the interior of tanks are not considered within the scope of this rule.

The wastewater flows covered by this rule include all washwaters which have come into direct contact with the tank or container interior including pre-rinse cleaning solutions, chemical cleaning solutions, and final rinse solutions. Additionally, the rule covers wastewater generated from washing vehicle exteriors, equipment and floor washings, and TEC contaminated stormwater at those facilities subject to the TEC effluent limitations guidelines and standards. The TEC limitations do not apply to wastewaters associated with tank cleanings performed in conjunction with other industrial, commercial, or POTW operations so long as the facility cleans only tanks and containers that have contained raw materials, by-products, and finished products that are associated with the facility's on-site processes.

Industrial users with discharges subject to the pretreatment standards in this regulation become categorical industrial users,

and therefore significant industrial users, as of the effective date of the regulation. In accordance with 40 CFR 403.12, POTWs that have users that discharge wastewater subject to the pretreatment standards in the transportation equipment cleaning category must ensure that these users submit Baseline Monitoring Reports (BMRs). The BMR is due within 180 days of the effective date of the regulation, and therefore must be submitted by March 12, 2001. To ensure that BMRs are submitted, POTWs must review the dischargers within the service area and identify any users subject to the new standard.

Further details on the applicability and scope of this category can be found in the regulation. POTWs may obtain a copy of the regulation through the Federal Register. A complete copy of the regulation, including the preamble, is also available through the Internet ([www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a000814c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a000814c.html)) in text or PDF format, or through the "Categorical Industries" section of the Region III pretreatment webpage ([www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pretreatment](http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pretreatment)). If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact your EPA or State contact.